



## NEWS RELEASE

**NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090**

**Jan. 11, 2013, 2 p.m.**

**CONTACT:** Jodie Fawl, (402) 471-7428, [jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### State of Nebraska Emergency Responders Complete Training

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA – More than 50 of Nebraska's state-level emergency management and state agency personnel attended a recent training and exercise opportunity at the newly opened State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Lincoln.

The goal of this training was to provide the staff an opportunity to work in a new environment. "We have opened a facility on the campus of the Air National Guard base near Lincoln Municipal Airport," said Al Berndt, assistant director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. "This course will allow us to see how well we can operate in this environment before we experience an actual event."

The course brings together personnel who staff the State EOC during an incident. The goal of this training-based exercise event is to provide a challenging scenario that is realistic as well as provides an opportunity to test existing plans.

"This class provided us a chance to review our emergency operations plans against a realistic, plausible scenario," said Berndt. "During the course, we were able to identify where everything worked according to our plan and a couple of places that we need to improve. Overall, it showed that we have a great team and work very well together."

The scenario the EOC was faced with included a natural disaster event, a major motor vehicle accident on Interstate-80, an agricultural event and a freight train fire. These plausible incidents tested the state's ability to organize and direct emergency response assets and to have them sent to where they were needed the most.

The state's dedication to an efficient response was evident in the amount of the number of state emergency management, state agencies and the state National Guard members who were in attendance during the four-day course. Participants were eager to apply existing and new knowledge to their current response plans and they efficiently handled the challenges presented by their instructors.

"When many agencies or departments respond to a realistic scenario, it is important to understand the challenge before you and then assign appropriate resources, both personnel and materials, to handle it," said Dave Reisen, training and exercise unit supervisor, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

"Because of this training, we not only will know the people we're likely to work with when an event happens, but we'll also better understand our roles and how best to communicate our needs."

###

**Contacts for additional information:**

**Paul Ganem – Training Specialist/Course Manager; 301-447-1172 or [paul.ganem@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:paul.ganem@fema.dhs.gov)**

**Al Fluman – Integrated Emergency Management Branch Chief; 301-447-1299 or [al.fluman@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:al.fluman@fema.dhs.gov)**